



## Preparedness News and Information

From FEMA's Preparedness Division

September 5, 2003

### NATIONAL NEWS

#### **Response to Blackout Exposes Homeland Security Weaknesses**

*GovExec, August 29, 2003*

While federal, state, and local officials heralded their responses to the New York City blackout as proof of how far they've come since Sept. 11, some homeland-security experts say the blackout was yet another warning siren.

#### **Safety of Food Industry a Matter of National Security**

*Jewish World Review, September 2, 2003*

Although the nation's food supply chain - the path from farms to family tables - has come under increasing scrutiny, experts question its ability to withstand terrorist attacks.

#### **CIA Effort to Beef up Recruiting Begins to Pay Off**

*GovExec, August 29, 2003*

The CIA's hiring requirements are more than 80 percent above what they were before 9/11, with the largest number of openings in clandestine services and such support areas as analysts.

#### **U.S. to Increase Number of Armed Air Marshals**

*NY Times, September 2, 2003*

U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge will announce plans on Tuesday to make 5,000 more armed law enforcement agents available to act as federal air marshals and will also transfer the federal air marshal's service and explosives unit to the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement from the Transportation Security Administration.

- [U.S. to Add 5, 000 Armed Air Marshals](#), *Associated Press*, September 2
- [Air Marshals Depart TSA, Join Law Enforcement Bureau](#), *GovExec*, September 2

#### **HHS Provides \$1.4 Billion More for States and Hospitals for Terrorism Preparedness**

*HHS Press Release, September 2, 2003*

HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson today announced that the Department has made available another \$1.4 billion to the states, territories and three metropolitan areas to help strengthen their capacity to respond to terrorism and other public health emergencies.

- [States, Localities Receive \\$1.4 Billion to Improve Bioterrorism Preparedness](#), *GovExec*, September 2
- [Test Vaccine Attacks Anthrax's Cause, Effect](#), *Washington Times*, September 2

### **Border Inspectors to Be Trained for Several Jobs**

*NY Times, September 2, 2003*

The Department of Homeland Security plans to train thousands of inspectors at airports, seaports and highway border crossings so that each can conduct immigration, customs and agriculture checks, functions now performed by three different people, according to the department secretary.

### **Homeland Security Announces New Initiatives**

*DHS Press Release, September 2, 2003*

In a speech at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, DHS Secretary Tom Ridge discussed the Department's plans to make available additional armed federal law enforcement agents to the skies, consolidate three different border inspection functions into 'one face at the border,' and consolidate terrorism grant and training programs within one office at DHS.

- [Ridge Unveils Homeland Security Consolidation, Reorg Efforts, Washington Technology](#), September 4
- [Homeland Security Will Create One Point Of Contact For Project Funding, Information Week](#), September 2

### **GAO: Federal, Local Agencies do not Effectively Share Terrorism Intelligence**

*GovExec, September 2, 2003*

A congressional report issued in July criticized intelligence, interagency cooperation and information sharing efforts prior to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, in addition to the Homeland Security Department's [color-coded terrorism alert program](#).

## **CONGRESS**

### **McInnis: Eco-terror 'Is for Real'**

*Durango Herald, August 31, 2003*

Representative Scott McInnis is working with a national state legislators' group to push for new laws including the Animal and Ecological Terrorism Act, which would create penalties for people who encourage, finance, assist or otherwise engage in acts of animal or ecological terrorism.

### **Lawmakers Blast First Responder Funding Formulas**

*GovExec, September 2, 2003*

Lawmakers at a Senate Judiciary subcommittee hearing on Wednesday bemoaned what they called inadequate and archaic funding formulas to equip the nation's "first responders" to emergencies for combating and responding to terrorism.

## **RECENT HEARINGS**

- [Implications of Power Blackouts on America's Cyber Networks and Critical Infrastructure](#), House Select Committee on Homeland Security, September 4

## STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES

### **Terrorism Drills were Learning Experience**

*Honolulu Advertiser, September 2, 2003*

While Hawaii generally would be ready to respond quickly to a terrorist attack, preparedness exercises conducted last week have shown state leaders the magnitude of the coordination effort that would be needed, according to Governor Linda Lingle.

### **Fort Laramie gets \$30K Grant**

*Billings Gazette, September 1, 2003*

Firefighters in Fort Laramie will receive funding under the latest round of grants from the Department of Homeland Security grant program which has disbursed millions of dollars to more than 3,000 fire departments in the past 12 weeks.

### **Preparing for Disaster: A Guide for Businesses**

*Miami Herald, September 1, 2003*

With hurricane season at its midpoint and the tornado still fresh in some business owners' minds, it's a good time to take stock and make sure that plans for handling natural disasters are in place.

### **N.M. Town Preps for Anti - Terror Training**

*Associated Press, September 1, 2003*

With help from the federal government, the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology has agreed to buy Playas which will be transformed into a sprawling classroom for lessons in anti-terrorism.

➤ [New Mexico Town to be Anti-Terror School](#), *CNN*, September 1

### **New 911 Radios End Problem Of 'Dead Spots'**

*Washington Post, August 31, 2003*

Earlier this year, police, firefighters and rescue units were issued new radios as part of a complete overhaul of St. Mary's county emergency communications system, and emergency responders said many of the problems they had with the old system have been solved.

### **Toolkit Sent to Assist Child Care Facilities With Emergency Planning**

*PEMA Press Release, September 4, 2003*

Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) Director David M. Sanko today announced that the agency has distributed a draft "model" plan for all hazards emergency planning for child- care facilities in Pennsylvania.

### **Missouri gets Grant for Disaster Preparedness**

*KRCG, September 4, 2003*

Missouri's Department of Health and Senior Services will use \$29 million in federal grants to help prepare for public health emergencies or terrorist attacks and to help further the Strategic National Stockpile of drugs available during a disaster.

### **Senators Rap State Security Readiness**

*Boston Globe, September 2, 2003*

Nearly two years after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, security in Massachusetts remains "woefully inadequate," and in some cases worse than before, according to state Senator Marc R. Pacheco, who next week will hold hearings about the Commonwealth's readiness to respond to another terrorist strike.

### **FDNY Hero to Share 9-11 Lessons with Standards Experts**

*American National Standards Institute, September 4, 2003*

As the first Chief on the scene during the World Trade Center attacks, Joseph W. Pfeifer, will share his unique perspective as a survivor and leader at the American National Standards Institute's (ANSI) Annual Conference which calls upon a diverse group of experts to address the essential security and emergency preparedness issues facing the nation.

### **FEMA Releases Review of Deadly 1999 Worcester Mass. Fire**

*Firehouse.com, September 4, 2003*

[A technical review](#) of the 1999 Worcester, Mass., fire that claimed six firefighters is being released by FEMA today that claims that abandoned buildings are a serious threat to firefighters and suggests that fire departments must make a concerted effort to use technology to maintain data on buildings in their response districts.

## **RELATED INFORMATION**

### **RECENT REPORTS**

- [Geospatial Information: Technologies Hold Promise for Wildland Fire Management, but Challenges Remain](#), GAO-03-1114T, August 2003
- [Homeland Security Advisory System: Possible Issues for Congressional Oversight](#), CRS Report, August 2003
- [Homeland Security: Reforming Federal Grants to Better Meet Outstanding Needs](#), GAO-03-1146T, September 2003

### **SPOTLIGHT WEBSITE**

- [Center for State Homeland Security](#), A National Resource for States and Local Communities,

---

The information contained in this newsletter was collected from Internet sources. Opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the official position of the Department of Homeland Security or FEMA's Preparedness Division.